

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats, a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Board** was held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 in Board Room A of the Sophie Beaumont Building – 111 North Jefferson Street, Green Bay, WI

Present: Chairman Tom Lund
Craig Huxford, Helen Smits, Paula Laundrie, JoAnn Grascberger, Susan Hyland

Excused: Carole Andrews, John Van Dyck, Bill Clancy

Also

Present: Jeremy Kral, Executive Director
Tim Schmitt, Finance Manager
Mary Johnson, Hospital & Nursing Home Administrator
Jim Hermans, Child Protection/Juvenile Justice Manager
Kerry Draxler, Shelter Care Supervisor
Kevin Brennan, Child Protection Supervisor

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Lund at 5:15 pm.

Citizen Board Member Susan Hyland entered meeting at 5:16 p.m.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda:

LAUNDRIE/GRASCHBERGER moved to approve the agenda.
The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes of August 8, 2013 Human Services Board Meeting:

HUXFORD/SMITS moved to approve the minutes dated August 8, 2013.
The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jeremy Kral presented and handed a written report to the board (attached).

Q: Citizen Board Member Smits asked if our reduction of beds in the hospital is going to leave enough space for our psychiatric needs.

A: Kral stated that our average census is around 16-17 and a handful of those individuals would be appropriate to be placed at the new CBRF, therefore hospital capacity should not be an issue. Johnson added that during the transition period, we have plans with Bellin and diversion for any overflow needs.

LAUNDRIE/HYLAND moved to receive and place on file.
Motion was carried unanimously.

5. Preparing Youth in Out of Home Care for Independent Living.

- Jim Hermans introduced Kerry Draxler, Shelter Care Supervisor and Kevin Brennan, Child Protection Supervisor. He stated that we have invested a lot in the area of independent living due to its importance. We have been organizing within our units as well as with community partners. As youth transition into adulthood, it is important that they have some measure of support and belonging to the community as a whole. Kerry Draxler presented and handed a written powerpoint to the board (attached).

Q: Chairman Lund asked if children in foster care generally get their driver's license since it is an important step towards independence including obtaining a job.

A: Brennan stated that counties differ in their internal rules on licenses but we have always supported that as an important milestone and a bridge to independence. To deny it would create a disadvantage for the youth. To obtain a license, the youth needs a sponsor who would normally be the foster parent but that does require a level of trust between them.

Q: Chairman Lund asked what percentage of foster care youth 16 and older have jobs.

A: Draxler stated those who hit age 17 usually do start working and saving money. If they aren't working, many are volunteering to learn job skills and focusing on schooling. Brennan added that the whole goal is self-sufficiency and stated that we need to be aware that some kids exiting our system are on an accelerated timeframe.

- Brennan stated there are a couple things that CPS ongoing staff are doing:
 - Permanency pact – discussion with the youth at the time of exit and a specific plan on paper that answers questions like “what do I do if I get a flat tire?” or “where should I go for the holidays?”.
 - Transitional roundtables – brings all the people who are important to the child's life together to have the hard conversations of how things are going to work in the future. Draxler stated this avoids rushing and panic towards the end.

Q: Citizen Board Member Smits stated that sometimes at that age, youth are not used to doing any long-term planning and are only focused on what is going on right now.

A: Draxler stated that most of the foster parents do act as a support to the youth even after their commitment is complete.

Q: Citizen Board Member Hyland asked about our quality of foster care as she in the past have worked with both good and concerning homes. She asked how they are selected and scrutinized and also if we are short on providers.

A: Brennan stated there is an extensive licensing process and our coordinator does interviews, background checks and a long training consisting of core curriculum. We place a lot of importance on laying out goals and expectations. Brennan stated you can never have enough good foster homes. You need to always have a certain capacity but everyone has their comfort zone when it comes to caring for kids. Hermans added that while we are always trying to reduce the need for placements outside of the home, we want to have an ample supply of good

foster homes so we have good choices to match the needs of the child with a family.

Q: Citizen Board Member Laundrie asked if they are always two parent homes that we utilize.

A: Draxler stated that we do not have that requirement unlike the American Foundation who requires that for treatment foster homes.

Q: Citizen Board Member Grashberger asked if we have ever had a situation where we had to move a child from a foster home since parents were not providing enough support.

A: Brennan stated we try to provide education and support as it would be really disruptive to the child's life to be removed. Sometimes parents request the child be removed and unless it is an emergency, we have thirty days to fulfill that request.

- Brennan stated we have started using foster homes to boost the natural supports in order to keep children connected to their biological parents. Respite is also an integral part of the foster care program in order to allow for breaks. Hermans stated the concept of shared parenting with foster care and biological parents is something we are developing. Brennan added that we do plan that children will go back to their biological family eventually so we train them to deal with same issues that might arise that originally removed them in the first place.

Q: Citizen Board Member Laundrie asked if they children who turn 15 are emancipated when they utilize independent living services.

A: Brennan stated that emancipation does not exist in Wisconsin statute. Draxler stated we they use the program, they actually don't go out and find independent living but just start the preparations for it.

Q: Citizen Board Member Huxford asked if there is a difference between our staff services and the services Family Services provide.

A: Hermans stated that we are in the best position with knowing the youth and their family to be the difference maker. In the past, we have been more reliant on others to cover those bases but now have more staff to cover that piece and do it in the best way. Brennan stated we do take an assessment of their skills and what each individual needs to learn. Chairman Lund stated he believed the caseworker is the best person to work with the child versus a third party since trust is really important.

- Brennan stated that a facebook page has been created to keep communication going with youth. If a youth takes off at age 18 and comes back at age 20 and say they need help, we will be there for support.

LAUNDRIE/SMITS moved to receive and place on file.
Motion was carried unanimously.

6. Financial Report

Schmitt had submitted a written report with the board packet agenda.

HYLAND/HUXFORD moved to receive and place on file.
Motion was carried unanimously.

7. Statistical Reports:

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

8. Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

9. Request for New Vendor Contract:

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

10. Other Matters:

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2013
5:15 p.m. – Sophie Beaumont Building, Board Room A

11. Adjourn Business Meeting:

HUXFORD/LAUNDRIE moved to adjourn; motion passed unanimously. Chairman Lund adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara Navin
Recording Secretary

Executive Director's Report to the Human Services Board

September 12, 2013

Members of the Board:

Let me begin by thanking you for your support in reviewing and endorsing the budget which was presented to you last month. Senior Human Services Department staff presented our budget suggestions to the County Executive and in the coming weeks the formal Executive budget will be released to the public. Thanks for your participation in the process.

As you may be aware, momentum is building toward the possibility of Family Care expansion in northeast Wisconsin. The state budget bill directed the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to submit a report to the Joint Finance Committee providing further analysis of long term care reform. This report is due by December 14. The Human Services Department is making early preparations for the outcome that the report is received favorably and expansion is authorized. This event would set a course leading to Family Care in Brown County, likely in 2015. We will pass along information as it becomes available, as will Rolf Hanson the NEW Family Care District's CEO and Brown County District representative, Carole Andrews.

The Economic Support Unit is gearing up for increased business related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, often called Obamacare. We expect an increase in call volumes due to eligibility changes associated with the law. Our department will not be assisting applicants in applying for health insurance through the exchange, but an increase in requests for information and increased applications for Medicaid are expected. This unit is always performing at a high level and we are confident that their dedication and skills will carry our department through what we expect to be a very busy time.

In the CTC, construction has begun on the redesign project. The hospital has been reduced to a 16-bed facility which allows for billing of Medicaid services to patients. We have made plans to utilize the contracted diversion facility for those who can safely be served there and Bellin Hospital has agreed to assist if we have needs for capacity while the construction is ongoing. After the construction, the 15-bed Community Based Residential Facility will allow for additional service capacity and revenue generation and we look forward to that being completed prior to the 2014.

You will hear tonight a presentation about services available to young people who are transitioning to adulthood after being served by the child protection or juvenile justice area. Services to these youth are an important portion of what the department does and you will hear about several of the possible avenues through which these young people may be supported or assisted in becoming independent. I probably cannot discuss the concepts and particular interventions with the eloquence or detail that our presenters will, but I want to take advantage of the opportunity to express to the Board that these services are a vital bridge from being in placement as a young person to becoming a successful, independent young adult.

Respectfully Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Kral', is written over a faint, circular official stamp or seal.

Jeremy Kral
Executive Director

Independent Living Services



**BROWN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

Federal Funding



- **John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999**
 - Provides funding
 - Outlines program requirements

Anticipated Need in 2013

- **It is anticipated that in 2013 between 10-12 youth will be aging out of foster care or kinship placement**
- **The projected number of youth to be served between the ages of 18-21 is 45.**
 - Does not include youth that refuse services
 - Incarcerated youth
 - Youth whose whereabouts are unknown/outdated contact information

Independent Living Services (ILS) Eligibility

- **Eligibility for ILS begins at age 15 ½**
- **Our Department begins planning for the youth well before their 18th birthday**
 - Primary goal is still Reunification to a parent or relative
 - Independent Living Program, Community Services Team, Administrative Review, Permanency Roundtables

Primary Focus of Independent Living

- **Teach the youth to become a good citizen**
 - Restorative Justice
 - Interpersonal Skills through Independent Living
- **Teach the youth Self Sufficiency**
 - High School Diploma, HSED or GED
 - Gainful employment
 - Post-secondary education or training

Youth Independent Living Staff in Brown County

- **Independent Living Services (ILS) is housed out of Brown County Shelter Care**
- **Many individuals work with ILS Youth to help plan for their exit from foster care**
 - IL Coordinator
 - CPS Case Managers
 - Juvenile Justice Case Managers
 - Foster Care Workers
 - Foster Parents/Relative Care providers

Mandated Services for Eligible Youth

- **Basic Living Skills**
 - Cooking Classes
 - Grocery Shopping
 - Laundry
 - Hygiene
 - Health/Medical
 - Interpersonal Skills
- **Increase knowledge of local resources**
- **Job Seeking Assistance**
- **Assistance in enrolling in secondary education/training**
- **HealthCare**
- **Financial Self Sufficiency**
- **Assistance with housing**



Mandated Services for Eligible Youth

- **Transportation**
- **Assistance in Obtaining Personal Documents**
 - State ID
 - Birth Certificate
 - Social Security Cards
- **Credit Checks**
- **Mentoring**
- **Case Management**



Barriers

- **Unavailable Housing**
 - Waitlists into transitional living programs are at least a year
- **Participation by Youth**
 - Youth refuse participation despite encouragement
 - Youth exit care prior to court order ending (runaways or leaving at 18 to squatting situations)
- **Unemployment**
- **Youth are taken advantage of**
- **Criminal background of youth**
- **Lack of funding for needed services**

Agency Wide Response

- **There are a number of Departments within Brown County that have taken an active role in meeting the needs of our youth**
 - Brown County Shelter Care
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Child Protection
 - Children and Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (CABHU)
 - Foster Care
 - UW-Extension
 - Purchasing
 - Children's Waiver
 - Volunteer Services
 - Economic Support
 - Payee Services



Community Response



- **The Department recognizes that alone the needs of the youth transitioning cannot completely be met**



Community Response



- **Foster Youth Exiting Out of Home Care Community Group**
 - Consists of service providers in the community
- **Present goals of the group are:**
 - Service mapping
 - Identify gaps in service
 - Identify unmet needs
 - Develop programming and identify grant writing opportunities to meet those needs



Community Members

- Brown County Shelter Care
- Brown County Juvenile Justice
- Brown County Child Protection
- CASA of Brown County
- American Foundation of Counseling (Foster Care)
- Advocates for Independent Living
- Family Services- Transitional Living Program
- Catholic Charities
- YWCA
- Volunteer Center of Green Bay

NEW Volunteer Program

- **Fostering Youth Independence (FYI)**
 - Volunteer program where mature mentors are matched with youth when they become eligible for Independent Living Services
 - Assist youth with basic living skills, assist with support in seeking employment and/or applying for college
 - Supported through Independent Living and Volunteer Services

Looking Ahead

- Identify agencies and community groups that offer supportive housing options for the youth
- Supporting foster parents as youth are preparing for adulthood and the transition out of foster care
- Increasing community awareness of the issues that face youth as they enter adulthood without family support

Questions?